Ammunition Depot Pulgaon, 19 Field Ammunition Depot and 22 Ammunition Company in the first phase, at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.899 crore.

Encroachment of Defence land in New Delhi

3087. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of encroachment and unauthorized construction like jugghi, PCO booths, vegetable market and other stall on defence land in Teen Murti, Kushak Road and Kashmir House, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to take this land back in its possession alongwith the action taken against those responsible for this; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Do not arise, since Ministry of Defence does not own any land at Teen Murti, Kushak Road and Kashmir House, New Delhi.

Defective Dhruv Helicopter

†3088. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the helicopter named 'Dhruv' provided to the State Government of Jharkhand was already defective which met with an accident while being taken away afterwards;

(b) whether technical testing of the helicopter had not been carried out before supplying it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures being taken to prevent recurrence thereof in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) All required tests were carried out.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) All actions will be taken as recommended by the Board of Inquiry.

Service tenure of Short Service Commissioned officers

†3089. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenure of service for Short Service Commissioned officers of Air Force has been fixed to fourteen years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The term of engagement for the Short Service Commissioned (SSC) officers of the Indian Air Force, to be inducted from the course commencing in January 2006 onwards, has been fixed at 10 years, extendable to 14 years. This decision has been taken in order to bring uniformity between the three Armed Forces.

Renewal of Indo-Russian Defence Programme

3090. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have agreed to renew defence programme for another 10 years from 2010;

(b) if so, any discussion has been held with the Russian authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There exists an Agreement signed on 21.12.1998 between India and Russia on the Long Term Programme of Military and Technical Cooperation for the period upto the year 2010. There exists an institutional mechanism for discussion on defence cooperation with the Russian

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.